

Remarks

The Office Action acknowledges US 5,763,958 to Yamamoto et al. (hereinafter, "Yamamoto") does not describe means for storing an identifier in a read only memory of a system mountable in a motor vehicle effective in preventing manipulation of a memory module functional in operating a control device of a component of said vehicle. Figure 2 of Yamamoto is reproduced below, for reference.

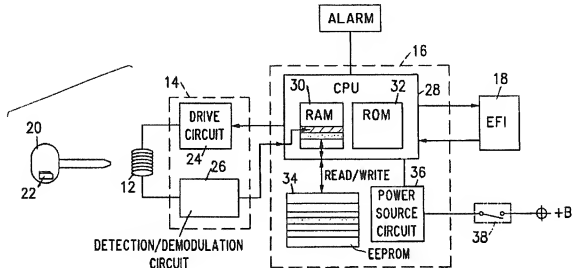


FIG. 2

Yamamoto explains, "[t]he transponder 22 incorporated in the key 22 transmits a check code to the antenna coil 12 by a serial transmission."¹ Subsequently, "[t]he detection/demodulation circuit 26 demodulates the change in the amplitude of the voltage fluctuation, and generates a high or low output signal in response to each bit included in the check code transmitted from the transponder 22."² Next, "[t]he microcomputer 28 recognizes a portion of the signal output from the detection/demodulation circuit 26 as the check code transmitted by the transponder 22, and records the check code in the RAM 30."³ After that, "[a] predetermined check code assigned to the vehicle is recorded in the EEPROM 34 which is a non-volatile memory. The microcomputer 28 determines

¹ Column 4, lines 32 – 33 of Yamamoto.

² Column 4, lines 34 – 40 of Yamamoto.

³ Column 4, lines 45 – 49 of Yamamoto.

whether or not the check code recorded in the RAM 30 matches the check code recorded in the EEPROM 34.”⁴ Only, “[w]hen the check codes match, [is] an instruction ... issued from the microcomputer 28 to the EFI computer 18 to render the vehicle in an operable state.” Therefore, according to Yamamoto, a check code must be recorded in RAM 30 each time the key 20 is used. Replacing RAM 30 with ROM, as proposed in the Office Action, would render Yamamoto unsuitable for its intended purpose.

Furthermore, the rationale for combining Yamamoto with US 5,950,038 to Okui (hereinafter, “Okui”) does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. The Office Action asserts “[o]ne would have been motivated to [modify the teaching of Yamamoto such as to store the check code in read only memory] in order to determine the end of life of a photosensitive unit and to replace it, with a new one, thereby maintaining image quality.” Yamamoto does not include a photosensitive unit. Therefore, no apparent reason existed to modify Yamamoto as proposed.

For at least these reasons, the undersigned respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections, all of which include the combination of Yamamoto and Okui.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees filed, asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account 14-1437. Please credit any excess fees to such account.

NOVAK DRUCE & QUIGG, LLP
1300 Eye St. N.W.
Suite 1000 West
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 659-0100
Facsimile: (202) 659-0105

Date: February 2, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



Peter N. Lalos
Registration No. 19,789
Michael P. Byrne
Registration No. 54,015

Attorneys for Applicants

⁴ Column 4, lines 52 – 57 of Yamamoto.